

PROPOSAL FOR AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE

PROFESSOR DAVID HENRY SOLOMON

David Solomon was awarded a Diploma of Chemistry from the Sydney Technical College in 1950. This was followed by a Bachelor of Science with Honours from the NSW University of Technology in 1952. His Masters thesis from the same University in 1955 was followed by a PhD from the University of NSW in 1959. His PhD thesis topic was 'Studies on the Chemistry of Carbonyl Compounds.' He was awarded a DSc from the University of NSW in 1968 on the topic "Studies on the Chemistry of Coating Compounds.

David worked between 1946 and 1955 at Balm Paints (later known as Dulux Australia) and was the leader of the Resin and Polymer Research Section of Dulux between 1955 and 1963. He then joined CSIRO Division of Applied Mineralogy as a Senior Research Scientist and later Senior Principal Research Scientist. Secondment for a year to the Georgia Kaolin Company New Jersey, USA, stimulated an interest in the role of mineral fillers in polymer composites. In 1970 he transferred to the Division of Applied Chemistry, was promoted to Chief Research Scientist and established the Polymer Research Group within the Division.

In 1974 he became the foundation Chief of the CSIRO Division of Applied Organic Chemistry. He held this position for 15 years, including two years as Director of the Institute of Industrial Technologies. In 1980 and 81 he spent time at the Reserve Bank of Australia to assist in the transfer of technology related to Australia's Plastic Banknotes. Between 1990 and 1994 he was Head of the School of Chemistry and ICI Australia-Masson Professor at the University of Melbourne and since 1995 has been a Professorial Fellow in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at this University.

His main research achievements are in the field of free radical polymerisation of polymers. His discoveries have had a significant influence in polymer chemistry and his original 1984 patent was the world's most cited patent in 2004. A further example of his contribution is the Australian Plastic Bicentennial \$10 Banknote, of which he is the principal inventor.

In his distinguished career, David Solomon has published 6 books, in excess of 250 papers and he holds 35 patents. The second edition of his book "The Chemistry of Radical Polymerization," was published this month in the UK. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and also of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI). He won the CSIRO medal in 1987 and 1990, is distinguished by a plethora of prizes and is honoured by the RACI Solomon Lecture.

He is a Member of the Order of Australia, achieved for contributions to science and technology, particularly in the field of Polymer Chemistry.